SPECIAL MORNING EDITION.

The Hongkong Telegraph

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WEATHER FORECAST
FINE
Barometer 30.18

December 24 1915. Temperature 6 a.m. 57 2 p.m. 65 Humidity „ 65 „ 43

December 24 1914. Temperature 6 a.m. 59 2 p.m. 61 Humidity „ 92 „ 98

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1915.

乙卯年十一月十九日-3106

TO-DAY'S WAR TELEGRAMS

[Reuter's Service to The "Telegraph."]

MUNITIONS AND THE TRADE UNIONS.

THE FIGHTING ON THE ALSATIAN FRONT.

More Unsuccessful Enemy Attacks in Flanders.

RUSSIAN ARMY'S ACTIVITY IN PERSIA.

MR. CHURCILL AT DOWNING STREET.

December 23, 5.30 p.m.

Mr. Winston Churchill, in mufti, has visited the Premier at Downing Street.

PERSIAN AFFAIRS.

BRITISH RESIDENTS REMAIN AT YEZD.

December 23, 5 30 p.m.

In the House of Commons, Lord Robert Cecil said that the British consul and colony at Kerman left for Banderabbas under escort on December 18. It was understood that the Acting Governor of Yezd had been able to maintain order and that the British Consul and colony had remained there.

BATTLE NEAR TEHERAN.

December 23, 8.45 p.m.

According to Reuter's Petrograd correspondent, a telegram from Teheran says that Russian forces from the Sava to the southward of Enghiimam and to the northward engaged at Rabatkerim, 35 versts from the city, forces under Emir Khishmet. The fighting is rapidly approaching the city, telegraphic communication with which has been cut.

THE YASAKA MARU.

December 23, 6.15 p.m.

The Yasaka Maru was torpedoed without warning. The French gunboat performed a magnificent feat in picking up, at midnight, all the 120 passengers, besides the large crew. The passengers included fifty-four women and fifteen children. There were eighty-one British on board and one American. All the passengers pay a tribute to the discipline and promptitude shown on board. All are now comfortably housed in Port Said.

TRADE AFTER THE WAR.

December 23, 6.25 p.m.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Runciman, dealing with the position of British industry after the war, intimated that the Board of Trade had made investigations covering practically every department of our commercial life, especially enquiring into the use by the Germans of our financial and shipping systems, and the ownership of real property by aliens. He pointed out how British trade could be extended in Italy, South America, and the East, and emphasised that trade preparations did not mean that we were hankering after peace until the main object of the war had been attained.

THE GOVERNMENT AND MERCHANT SHIPPING.

December 23, 7.40 p.m.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Balfour, speaking of the shipping situation, said that an archangel from heaven would not be able to carry out the work of the war without some waste of tonnage. He did not absolutely refuse the suggestion that the Government should take over the whole of the merchant marine, but the difficulties, he said, were enormous. He strongly urged that the Munitions Bills should be passed as quickly as possible because that step would promote the building of merchantmen.

MESOPOTAMIAN CAMPAIGN.

December 23 10.35 p.m.

General Townshend reports that the night of the 21st—22nd was quiet.

WAR TELEGRAMS.

THE ALLIES IN THE WEST.

FRENCH ACTIVITY.

December 23, 12 35 p.m.

An official despatch from Headquarters in France states that, early in the morning, the enemy made an unsuccessful bombing attack on a post near Ploegsteert Wood. The day was brighter and consequently active, the preponderance of activity being on our side.

THE POSITION AT HARTMANNSWEILERKOPF.

December 24, 1.5 a.m.

Paris communique states that the centre of interest continues, for the moment, to be near Hartmannsweilerkopf, where the French left has partially retired from the northern slopes but where the centre and right, on the south-eastern crests, hold all the conquered ground on a front of two kilometres. The enemy artillery continues to plaster the northern slopes. A snowstorm has interrupted operations. Mine-fighting in Woevre, south-west of Apremont, resulted in favour of the French.

GENERAL CASTELNAU AT SALONICA.

December 24, 3.40 a.m.

General Castelnau, Chief of the French Staff, has arrived at Salonica in order to inspect the front.

THE ITALIAN FRONT.

December 24, 4.30 a.m.

Artillery fire continues along the whole Italian front.

MR. LLOYD GEORGE AND THE TRADE UNIONS.

December 24, 4.30 a.m.

Mr. Lloyd George at Glasgow received a deputation of munitions officials and Trade Unionists. There was a general exchange of opinions regarding the introduction of more unskilled labour, which is at present the most urgent problem. Preparations have been completed for a great meeting on Christmas Day, at which Mr. Lloyd George will explain to the Trade Union representatives the need for suspending Trade Union regulations.

THE GERMAN AMERICAN.

December 24, 4.00 a.m.

Reuter's New York correspondent says that Paul Koenig and Heyendicker (whose case was mentioned on December 17) have been committed for trial for "organizing in the United States a military enterprise against Canada." The man Justice was also committed for trial.

HONGKONG & THE WAR.

WHY NO MORE MEN CAN BE SPARED.

Mercantile Community Annoyed at Ill-advised Suggestions.

The following letter from the Chairman of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce to the Hon. Colonial Secretary has been sent to us for publication:—

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong
24th December, 1915.

Sir,—The Committee of this Chamber has had its attention drawn to a contributed article entitled "The Hongkong Hundred" which appeared in the *Daily Press* of this morning and has noted that similar expressions of opinion have been voiced before in the press of the Colony.

If these be views held by the Community generally, I suggest that the time would appear to be appropriate for the institution by the Government of a scheme of regisuration similar to that initiated by Lord Derby in Great Britain.

If the Military Authorities should be eventually of the opinion that men could be spared from the defence of the Colony for the front, I trust that H. E.'s views will be that such men should be first forthcoming from the Regulars, Territorial Force and lastly from the Volunteer Forces.

British firms and British Banks have done, and are desirous of doing everything in their power to farther the cause of victory, and towards this end it has constantly been impressed upon them that it is of the utmost importance to foster the export and Overseas-Carrying trade of Great Britain and to maintain the income derived from business generally. This they are endeavouring to do to the best of their ability with considerably depleted staffs already engaged in certain Military Duties.

It is causing annoyance to British Firms to read such views as have been circulated, doubtless without much thought or real knowledge of the situation and the Mercantile Community would welcome a definite expression of opinion from the Government on the matter.

The Committee, regarding the subject as of immediate public interest, has directed that copies of this communication shall be handed to the press without waiting for your reply.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
D. LANDALE,
Chairman.

The Honourable,
The Colonial Secretary.

THE EXTRADITION CASE.

At the Supreme Court, yesterday, the Chief Justice and the Puisne Judge delivered their judgments in the case in which Hung Siu Lun has been appealing under *Habeas Corpus* against his extradition.

Both judges found that the case for the fugitive had been sustained and that he was entitled to his release. The man was therefore discharged.

VOLUNTEER ORDERS.

Corps Orders issued yesterday by Lieut.-Col. A. Chapman, V.D., state:—

Leave.

Pte. F. S. Thomson is granted leave of absence from 23.12.15 to

Transfer.

Private F. H. Dillon from Civil Service Company to Engineer Company, dated 23. 12. 15.

Parades.

Parades for Saturday, 25th instant Nil.

Parades for Sunday, 26th instant Nil.

Parades for Monday 27th instant Nil.

Parades for Tuesday 28th instant:—7.00 a.m. Member of Signalling Section and other Signallers as detailed in Signalling Section Order dated 8.12.15—Morse flag practice at Headquarters.

5.10 p.m. Centre Section M. G. Co.—Machine Gun drill at Kowloon Docks. Launch leaves Statue Pier at 4 30 p.m.

5.15 p.m. Nos. 1 and 2 Sections Arty. Batty.—10 pdr. drill at Headquarters. Sergt. Bradley will attend.

5.15 p.m. Left Section M. G. Co.—Bayonet fighting at Headquarters.

5.15 p.m. No. 3 Section Scouts Co.—Machine Gun drill at Headquarters.

5.15 p.m. Recruits of all units—Squad drill and Rifle exercises at Headquarters under Sergt.-Major Higby.

5.15 p.m. Stretcher Bearer Section.—Instruction at Headquarters.

Detail.

Gun Club Hill, Kowloon:—

On duty until morning of 25th instant.—H.K.V.R.

On duty 26th inst. to 2nd Prox.—Right Section M. G. Co.

Officer on duty Lieut. Kennett, P. of W. Camp, Kowloon:—

On duty until morning of 26th instant—H.K.V.R.

On duty 26th inst., Scouts Co.

Officer on duty, Capt. Stewart.

On duty 27th inst., Scouts Co.

Officer on duty, Lieut. Weall.

On duty 28th inst., Scouts Co.

Officer on duty, Lieut. Murphy.

Orderly Sergt. from 26th Dec. to 2nd Jan., Corpl. W. Brown.

Notice.

A high class Lee Enfield Match Rifle by Alex Martin of Glasgow, fitted with G.S.A. Aperture Backsight, with cleaning gear complete, is for sale. This rifle was the property of the late Pte. W. Dobbs H.K.V.R. it is nearly new and is in first class condition. It may be inspected at the office of the Building Authority any week day between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.) or at other times by appointment.

SANITARY BOARD.

The Sanitary Board meets on Wednesday next at 3.45 p.m. The orders of the day include:—

Letter from Government relative to the appointment of Mr. F. B. L. Bowley to be a Member of the Sanitary Board.

Letter from Government relative to the erection of one water closet at No. 5 Chater Road, Marine Lot Nos. 102 and 103 Queen's Buildings.

Application for permission to erect one water closet and one urinal at the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company's Works, Hunghom Marine Lot No. 27.

Application for permission to erect 4 water closets at Nos. 1 to 4 Peru Villas, Kowloon Inland Lot No. 576, sections D. and F.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[The opinions expressed by the correspondents are not necessarily those of the "Hongkong Telegraph."]

[To the Editor of the *Hongkong Telegraph*.]

"PIPES FOR MEN IN THE TRENCHES."

Sir,—Last month you very kindly allowed me, through the columns of your paper, to thank numerous ladies and gentlemen who had contributed towards a Fund to purchase pipes for our brave soldiers who are nobly and cheerfully enduring the terrible hardships and discomforts of trench life during a very severe winter's campaign. Since the last acknowledgment was published, I have received contributions amounting to $120 from the following, to whom I desire to express my appreciation of their kindness:—"Aunt Anne," J. B. W. G. Humphreys, R.D.H., C. Hodgson (Canton); Mrs Evan Jones; J.J.; H.W.L; G.L; A. M. Lossius; Mrs. M. Kemp; Mrs Maitland; C. H. Shields (Canton); William and Kathleen Williams; Treganter (H.P.W.,) Mrs Hallward.

Lists Nos 1 to (already acknowledged)	684.75
List No. 6 (acknowledged above)	120.00
Total amount collected	$804.75
Remitted on the 13th November 1915	600.00
Balance in hand	$204.75

Pipes are still badly needed by our brave fighting men in France, the Dardanelles, and, in fact everywhere else where they are being employed to repel the invasion of a powerful enemy. I therefore beg permission to remind readers of your paper that the Pipe Fund will be kept open until further notice. Every five dollars will purchase two dozen briar pipes. I shall be extremely grateful to all who help me to obtain another $200 before the end of the year.

Yours etc.,
ETHEL E. HARVEY.

"Albertholwyn" 14, Peak Road, December 24.

SERIOUS FIRE.

Sugar Store Completely Destroyed.

Thursday afternoon a serious fire broke out at Mongkok, as a result of which three valuable buildings were seriously damaged. Apparently the fire started at the Kwong Fat Shipbuilding yard, which is a structure of corrugated iron and wood.

Despite the efforts of the Fire Brigades from Yaumati and Hongkong, the flames quickly spread to the Kwong Sang Ming Engineering Works and from thence to the Hung Hing Sugar and Candy Stores, where owing to the inflammable nature of the stock, the fire burned very fiercely, and this building was absolutely demolished.

The shipbuilding yards are insured. The damage to the Kwong Fat Shipbuilding yards amounted to $250, to the engineering works $1,000, and to the Sugar Store $50,000.

Engine Drivers Grant and Fowler were slightly injured.

BIRTH.

MACKINTOSH.—On December 24, at 19, Robinson Road, to Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Mackintosh, a son.

THE YASAKA MARU.

TORPEDOED WITHOUT WARNING.

PASSENGERS AND CREW PICKED UP BY FRENCH GUNBOAT.

We are indebted to the local office of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha for the following translations of telegrams received from the Head Office in Tokyo and the Company's London office, both dated the 23rd inst., concerning the loss of the Yasaka Maru:—

Tokyo, December 23.

Port Said telegraphs twenty-second "Yasaka Maru" torpedoed without warning Tuesday afternoon. Ship sank in forty-nine minutes. All passengers and crew saved and picked up by French gunboat midnight—landed Port Said to-day. Accommodation provided for passengers and crew. Have telegraphed London Office for instructions. Passengers express great admiration of skill Captain officers and discipline crew. Most perfect order maintained during embarkation which was carried out greatest promptitude.

KONDO.

London, December 23.

"Yasaka Maru."—All passengers crew saved landed Port Said. Arrangements for forwarding destinations having every attention.

NYK.

POSTAL REGULATIONS IGNORED.

The master of the s.s. Seong Taik Hong was yesterday prosecuted by Mr. E. D. C. Wolfe, the Postmaster General, with leaving the Harbour without giving notice to the Post Office.

Mr. Heywood defended and held that an offence had not been committed.

Mr. Wolfe said that under the Ordinance notice had to be given to the Post Office before leaving. They had received complaints from Amoy that they had missed a mail, and a Japanese ship had also gone without giving notice.

A fine of $5 was imposed.

Entertainment Postponed.

The soiree arranged by the R. E. Entertainment Club, which was to have taken place on the 27th inst., has now been postponed.

Ownership of a Uniform.

At the Police Court yesterday afternoon, an Indian watchman was charged with stealing a uniform belonging to the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co. Mr. Gardiner defended. The defence was that, by the custom observed by the Company, the defendant claimed the suit as his own. The case was adjourned.

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